

"OUR DISSENT AND OUR DISAPPROVAL HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED BY THE POLITBUREAU AND THE DIRECTORATE OF THE PARTY IMMEDIATELY (UNDERLINED), ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AFTER WE HAD THE NEWS OF THE INTERVENTION.

"I MYSELF, CALLED BY TELEPHONE FROM MOSCOW AT THE PLACE WHERE I WAS, DECLARED MY FULL AGREEMENT SINCE (THE PARTY) TOOK AN IMMEDIATE POSITION BY A COMMUNIQUE WITH WHICH, WHEN IT WAS READ TO ME, I FULLY AGREED.

"THE DIRECTORATE OF THE PARTY, MEETING IN FULL SESSION TWO DAYS LATER, AFTER MY RETURN AND THE RETURN OF OTHER COMRADES OF THE DIRECTORATE TO ROME, -- AFTER A FULL DISCUSSION -- UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE POSITION ASSUMED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE NEWS OF THE INTERVENTION.

"IT COULD BE OF INTEREST THAT OUR PARTY WAS THE FIRST POLITICAL FORCE IN ITALY TO ASSUME A CLEAR AND NET POSITION, WITHOUT HESITATION, ON EVENTS OF SUCH GRAVITY AND WHICH JUSTLY AROUSED SO MUCH EMOTION; AND THAT -- ABOVE ALL AFTER CIERNA AND BRATISLAVA, AND THE SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS -- CAME UNEXPECTEDLY.

"I BELIEVE IT RIGHT TO BRING OUT HOW, ALSO, IN THIS DRAMATIC, UNHAPPY AND SERIOUS EMERGENCY, WAS SHOWN THE DEEP, SUBSTANTIAL POLITICAL AND IDEALISTIC UNITY OF OUR PARTY AND OF ITS LEADERSHIP ORGANS, THEIR CAPACITY AND THEIR POLITICAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL GRASP OF THE OPPORTUNITY.

"IT WAS SHOWN ONCE AGAIN HOW A PARTY SUCH AS OURS, ACCUSTOMED TO THE MOST FREE AND OPEN METHODS OF INTERNAL DISCUSSION AND CONFRONTATION OF DIVERSE IDEAS AND POSITIONS, ACCUSTOMED TO THE METHOD OF RAPID ASSUMPTION OF RESPONSIBILITY AND OF AUTONOMOUS INITIATIVE BY ITS LEADERS AND MILITANTS, IS IN A POSITION TO REALIZE, JUST BECAUSE OF ITS USAGE TO A LIVELY DEMOCRATIC LIFE, THE MAXIMUM OF UNITY, WITH RAPIDITY AND EFFICACY, IN THE ACTIVATION OF ITS POLITICAL DUTIES.

"THE POSITION TAKEN BY THE LEADERSHIP ORGANS OF OUR PARTY WAS CLEAR, IMMEDIATE, UNANIMOUS, BECAUSE IT DID NOT RPT NOT ARISE ONLY FROM AN IMMEDIATE EMOTION., BECAUSE IT WAS NOT RPT NOT CONDITIONED IN ANY WAY UPON PRESSURES OF DIVERSE AND ADVERSE POLITICAL FORCES, BUT BECAUSE, ON THE CONTRARY, IT WAS THE OUTLET OF A WHOLE POLICY AND OF A LONG THEORETICAL ELABORATION.

"THE POSITION ASSUMED BY US CAME ABOUT BECAUSE OF BOTH REASONS OF PRINCIPLE AND OF CONSIDERATION OF FACTS AND POLITICS. WHY DID WE REPROVE THE ARMED INTERVENTION BY THE SOVIET UNION AND THE OTHER FOUR SOCIALIST COUNTRIES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA? IT WAS SAID -- TO JUSTIFY THE INTERVENTION -- THAT IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA THE SOCIALIST REGIME WAS IN DANGER -- WAS ON THE POINT OF BEING OVERTHROWN; THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS ON THE POINT OF BREAKING AWAY FROM THE SOCIALIST AREA, AND THAT, THEREFORE, IT WAS NOT RPT NOT POSSIBLE TO TOLERATE, ESPECIALLY IN THE CENTER OF EUROPE, THE PUSHING BACK OF THE SOCIALIST FRONTIERS.

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